

28 July 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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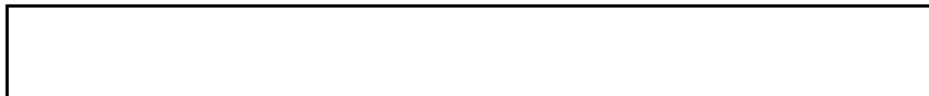
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

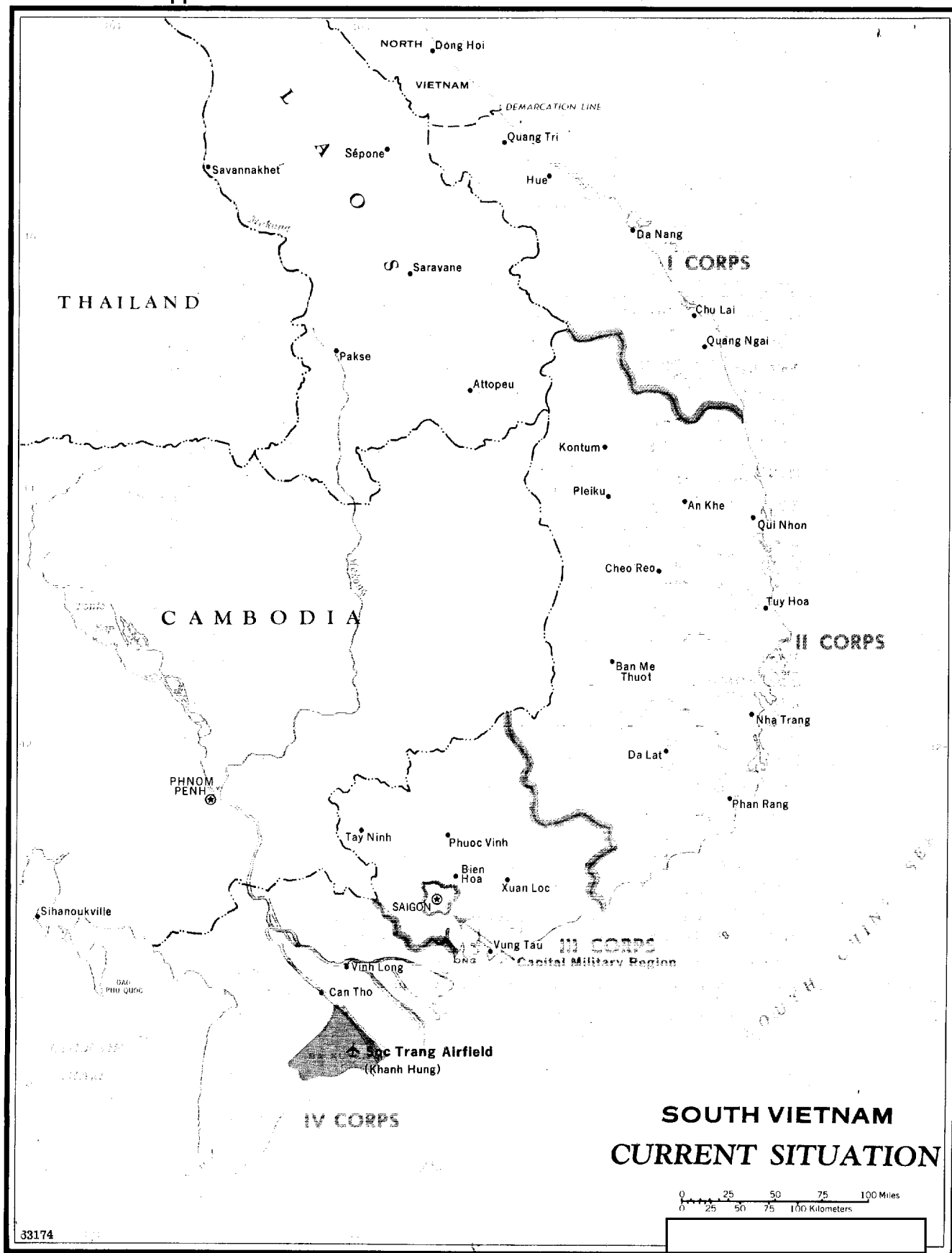
Political Developments in South Vietnam: The Viet Cong, in a propaganda statement by their National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, have strongly condemned the forthcoming elections in South Vietnam.

A Liberation Front broadcast on 25 July called for a nationwide boycott of the election, and implied that "compatriots" should apply physical measures to "smash" this "trick" of the Saigon authorities. Another similar broadcast on 26 July was addressed to the people in the Saigon area.

The statements, issued after alleged meetings in July by both the Front's national leadership and its Saigon area committee, do not appear to espouse any significant departures from Viet Cong policy. They do, however, raise the spectre that persons associated with the electoral process, including candidates, could become the targets of increased harassment throughout the country.

The active Viet Cong propaganda machinery, in an obvious attempt to exploit rumored chinks in the armor of South Vietnam's military leadership, has separately broadcast a warning to two of the ARVN corps commanders that they are next in line for a purge by Premier Ky. Their attention was called to the fate of the five generals who were recently relieved from active duty for their antigovernment positions during the I Corps "struggle movement."


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Military Developments in South Vietnam: Viet Cong harassment against US air bases continued yesterday.

25X1 The Soc Trang airfield at the capital of Ba Xuyen Province in the delta was the target of an unsuccessful mortar attack, the third such attack in the past week against a US air base. A Viet Cong directive apparently issued in July of this year called for stepped up activities against US air facilities which have grown invaluable not only in providing close support for combat units but also in relieving the pressure against outposts heavily engaged by the enemy at night. (see map)



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*Congo (Kinshasa): [President Mobutu's recent actions against French-speaking mercenaries threaten to alienate those mercenaries in Kisangani who have so far supported the government.]

[Mobutu told members of his entourage on 25 July that he is convinced that the mutiny in Kisangani is part of a Belgian plot to oust him in favor of Tshombé. Since then he has permitted government troops to disarm and imprison French-speaking mercenaries in remote regions and in Kinshasa.]

[Mobutu has either been unable to control the action of his subordinates or is deliberately moving against the French-speaking Sixth Commando unit whose commander in Kisangani initially supported the central government.]

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[The South African (Fifth Commando) mercenaries, who are not involved in the Kisangani area, have not yet become a target of Mobutu. He has apparently approved the imminent delivery of 75 new recruits from South Africa.]

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NOTES

Brazil: [High government officials--including President Castello Branco--have taken strong exception both publicly and privately to recent criticism of Latin American countries by US legislators. The government has become more sensitive to US pressure on such issues as recognition of the new Argentine government which it tends to view as interference in the internal affairs of other American republics. According to the US Embassy, proposals to discontinue US assistance to countries where an unconstitutional change of government has occurred will strengthen nationalist feeling in Brazil and encourage a more independent stand in bilateral and hemispheric affairs.]

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Brazil: Reaction in Brazil to the 25 July bombing incidents in Recife has been one of almost universal revulsion, accompanied by some fear that the Castello Branco administration might overreact to the provocation. Leaders of the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement immediately denounced the terrorist acts; their main concern apparently was that a wave of terrorism might lead the government to cancel the congressional elections scheduled for November. Although a number of Communists and extreme leftists have been rounded up in Pernambuco, the government does not seem inclined to take more drastic action at this time. Should bomb plantings or other terrorist acts continue, however, the government's attitude could change swiftly.

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Argentina: Army commander General Pistarini and his key staff officers appear to believe that US military assistance programs will be resumed at the same level as before the June coup. Pistarini is attempting to re-establish a friendly working relationship with US officers and has not threatened a deterioration of US-Argentine relations or made demands on the US. Pistarini's statements contrast with those made recently by Argentine Air Force Brigadier Alvarez, who indicated that withholding of US assistance might force Argentina to turn to European suppliers for military equipment. /

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The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

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Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

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